

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to update the status of the priority document.

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim 1 is under consideration in this application. Claims 2 to 31 have been canceled.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

**CONCLUSION**

This preliminary amendment makes reference to the parent application and cancels claims 2-31 without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents. No new matter is added.

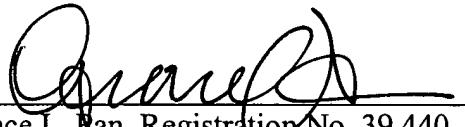
Entry of the above amendatory matter and early examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

An early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Grace L. Pan, Registration No. 39,440  
Samuel S. Lee, Registration No. 42,791  
TEL: 212-588-0800  
FAX: 212-588-0500